

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 155166

FOLLOWING REYKJAVIK 888 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO COMICEDEFOR  
JUNE 30 77 REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 0888

EUR/NE FOR DON DONCHI

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MPOL, IC  
SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL STUDY ON INADEQUACY OF NATO  
ATLANTIC DEFENSES: GUIDANCE REQUESTED

1. SENIOR EDITOR OF LEADING DAILY MORGUNBLADID STYRMIR  
GUNNARSSON CONTACTED CHARGE' AND INFORMED HIM OF STORY BEING  
CARRIED ON AP WIRELESS FILE CONCERNING STUDY RELEASED BY  
CONGRESSIONAL  
BUDGET OFFICE RESEARCHERS AT 1600 GMT TODAY (JUNE 30) IN WHICH  
ALLEGED  
INADEQUACIES OF U.S. AND NATO DEFENSES IN NORTH ATLANTIC  
WERE HIGHLIGHTED. GUNNARSSON STATED THAT ONE FACTOR THAT WAS  
ESPECIALLY DISCONCERTING FROM POINT OF VIEW OF ICELANDIC  
SUPPORTERS OF NATO AND DEFENSE FORCE WAS EMPHASIS PLACED BY STUDY ON  
NATO BASE'S "OBSOLSCENCE" AND INABILITY TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE  
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PROTECTION TO ICELAND OR TO NORTH ATLANTIC. STUDY REPORTEDLY ALSO  
MENTIONED THAT FIRST SOVIET THRUST INTO ATLANTIC WOULD BE TO  
KNOCK OUT AIRBASES IN ICELAND AND NORWAY. GUNNARSSON  
POINTED OUT THAT MANY ICELANDERS WILL WONDER HOW SUCH  
A STATEMENT MATCHES PREVIOUS ASSURANCES THAT ICELAND'S MEMBERSHIP IN  
NATO AND PRESENCE OF IDF ARE DETERRENT TO SOVIET AGRESSION AGAINST  
ICELAND.

2. GUNNARSSON ALSO REMARKED THAT REPORT IMPLIED THAT AN AIRCRAFT CARRIER BASED IN NORTH ATLANTIC COULD PERFORM ALL OF THE FUNCTIONS OF KEFLAVIK NATO BASE ALBIET AT CONSIDERABLY INCREASED COSTS. THIS, HE NOTED, IS ALSO PERFECT AMMUNITION FOR NATO CRITICS WHO WILL NOW ARGUE THAT BASE IS UNNECESSARY AND ONLY MAKES ICELAND A TARGET IN ANY SUPERPOWER CONFRONTATION. GUNNARSSON NOTED THAT ICELANDIC STATE RADIO WILL CARRY AP REPORT TONIGHT AND ALL MORNING PAPERS, INCLUDING MORGUNBLADID, WILL CARRY STORY TOMORROW.

3. IN EFFORT TO FIND SOME SORT OF CONSTRUCTIVE RESPONSE TO NEGATIVE IMPACT OF STORY ON REPORT, GUNNARSSON HAS A KED ICELANDIC EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON TO CONTACT STATE AND DOD. GUNNARSSON APPEARS ANXIOUS TO HELP PUT STUDY IN PERSPECTIVE AND REQUESTS OUR HELP IN DOING SO.

4. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING BY IMMEDIATE CABLE COPY OF PERTINENT PORTIONS OF CONGRESSIONAL STUDY WHICH PERTAIN TO ICELAND AND ROLE OF KEFLAVIK NATO BASE IN NORTH ATLANTIC SECURITY.

5. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE IMMEDIATE GUIDANCE ON INFORMATION WE CAN PASS TO GUNNARSSON REFUTING ANY ASPECTS OF REPORT WHICH COULD UNDERMINE ICELANDIC CONFIDENCE IN ROLE OF NATO BASE IN DEFENSE OF ICELAND AND NORTH ATLANTIC.  
CHRISTENSEN UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER  
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## Message Attributes

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